



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



## **Novato Unified School District**

### **Task Force Meeting Notes**

**May 16, 2013**

#### **Attendees (7)**

Wendi Kallins – Program Director for Safe Routes to Schools; Laura Kelly –Volunteer Liaison for Safe Routes to Schools; Mark Silva – Novato Unified School District; Mike Hanlon – Novato Public Works; Krista Peach San Jose Middle School volunteer parent; Barbara Curtice – Sinaloa Middle School volunteer parent; Michelle Ganote – Pleasant Valley volunteer parent.

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Safe Routes to School National Conference Heads West**

August 13-15, 2013 • Sacramento, California

<http://saferoutesconference.org/>

The 4th Safe Routes to School National Conference is making its way to California's state capital this summer. The first state to enact SRTS legislation in 1999, California has played a key role in the birth of the Safe Routes to School movement and remains a national leader in SRTS strategies. Join us on the West Coast this summer for this not-to-be-missed national conference focused on providing safe, convenient and fun opportunities for children to bike and walk to school! The Safe Routes to School National Conference is hosted by the Local Government Commission. It is co-presented by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership

#### **SchoolPool Survey**

Wendi has created a SchoolPool survey. The goal of the survey is to recruit neighborhood captains and provide parents with a way to express their opinions. Wendi needs to obtain a designated map of schools, and their surrounding neighborhoods to attach to the survey. Mike and Wendi will work together on this.

## Safe Driving Pledge Update



Mike shared that the Tour De Novato was an excellent venue to distribute information about the Novato Safe Driving Pledge campaign. Free popsicles were also given out. The purpose of the Pledge campaign is to raise awareness and encourage motorists to:

- Drive within the legal speed limit on Novato neighborhood streets
- Share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists, be courteous, and drive safely
- Reduce cell phone use to urgent calls only and always hands-free

Novato has secured approximately 200 pledges, and distributed 200 decals. The Safe Driving Pledge decal in your car shows other drivers that you, as a Novato resident, are taking part in this community-based effort to promote safe and friendlier neighborhood streets. At a recent Novato City Council Meeting, a proclamation was declared to endorse the Safe Driving pledge. All council members accepted and endorsed the pledge. Information about the Safe Driving Pledge will be included in back-to-school information in August. Mike is dedicated towards increasing the number of pledges in Marin.

## HSIP Highway Safety Improvement Program

A grant is being developed to apply for HSIP infrastructure improvements funds for the intersection of San Marin Drive and Novato Boulevard. This is near the area that Hailey was killed on her bike after being hit by an SUV last year.

The Task Force discussed Novato Boulevard improvements. Barb shared her observations from the walk audit with David Parisi that was conducted. Signage is needed when driving east, alerting drivers that they are now “Entering Novato,” and a school is in the vicinity. This type of additional signage is critical in creating awareness to slow down. A letter from Safer Travel for Novato about other recommendations is included with these notes.

*Bikeways on Sunset Parkways (from South Novato Boulevard to Ignacio Boulevard)*

Come view concept plans and provide feedback:

Time: 7 – 8 p.m.

Monday: May 20, 2013

Location: Multi-Purpose Room, Lynwood Elementary School

1320 Lynwood Drive, Novato

### **Building a stronger parent volunteer program in Novato Elementary Schools**

Wendi shared that she presented to the Novato PTA leaders last month in efforts to engage their efforts to recruit more parent volunteer assistance in the elementary schools. The SR2S is searching for two parents to be “Safe Routes Champions” to co-lead and represent our program. The goal is to have two people “team up” and work creatively together throughout the school year to encourage biking, walking and carpools to school.

Teachers and/or administrators can serve the role as the primary contact in implementing the SR2S program. PTA needs to be actively involved in recruiting. We’re looking for people who are passionate about bicycling, walking and/or safety issue.

### **Infrastructure Updates**

Cycle 7 – Funding was received last year. Concept plans have been developed by the Public Works to work with a \$400K budget. 10% additional kick-in from the city. Two main projects:

- 1 Lynwood School Improvement Plan – A map was distributed to the Task Force for discussion about the high visibility crosswalk to link pathways to the school yard and construct a 6-foot sidewalk with curb. Construction is slated to begin in 2014.
- 2 Sinaloa - Install a sidewalk on East side of traffic island and receiving curb ramp at exit. Reconstruct the east corner of Mill and Vineyard Road with new curb ramps and reduced turning radii. There is neighborhood opposition to this project suggesting a different crosswalk that staff feels would be unsafe. Help will be needed to getting people to the meeting in the fall.

# # #

March 28, 2013

To: Jason Nutt – City of Novato Public Works Director/City Engineer

Cc: Pat Eklund – Mayor of Novato

From: Safer Travel for Novato (Formerly Novato Blvd. Safety Committee)

Our committee has come together several times to discuss the proposed changes around the Chase Residential Development. In our meeting with you last October, you encouraged us to put together our suggestions and send it to you. Since that time, several of the citizens in our committee have taken time to research and document the types of conditions they would like modeled in Novato. During this time, several residents have proclaimed on numerous occasions they have been in dangerous situations with speeding vehicles in this area from Dogbone Meadows to San Marin Drive.

In the time since we last met with you, we realize that there are many areas of Novato that are in need of traffic calming measures. As concerned citizens we are eager to participate in the education process with city council and the entire community. Thus we have changed our group name to SAFER TRAVEL FOR NOVATO (STFN), encompassing all of Novato.

Below are the suggestions and ideas we have for the area near and around the Chase Residential Development. These have been grouped in categories of SPEED, LIGHTING, PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC/BIKE PATH and EDUCATION

**Speed:**

Speed reduction in both lanes on Novato Blvd. This is a multi-use area around the residential area that includes walkers, bike riders, horse riders, autos and bicyclists. For example, if you take a look at the rural area around the town of Nicasio where there is open road with 45 mph prior to the school zone which is at 35 mph and 25 mph when children are present. In Novato, prior to the San Marin school zone, the speed limit is 45 mph until you are at the school zone. Therefore, this does not give drivers the ability to slow down to address the abrupt change in the speed limit. Why can't we emulate what has been done in Nicasio to protect pedestrians and children? STFN has photos that show this signage in and around Nicasio and video footage of approaches to both Nicasio and Novato for your review.

Solar speed signs both directions on Novato Blvd.

White Bots Dots placed in both directions at speed limit change and stop signs.

Roundabout placed on Novato Blvd in the area of Copper Creek and the proposed Community Garden. There are several examples of roundabouts being used successfully in Petaluma.

Stop sign or stop light placed at Dogbone Meadows with signs warning of stop sign ahead. STFN has photos taken of the Fairfax crossings which have been successful at handling speed changes from both city and rural approaches.

Signage stemming from the east that you are entering Novato (STFN is organizing with Rotarian Gary Butler)

**Lighting:**

Well-lighted intersections at Sandy Creek and Copper Creek.

Lighted street area east side of the street from San Marin Drive to Chase Development.

Roadside trees trimmed to eliminate shadows so that vehicles and pedestrians are able to clearly see roadside speed limits, oncoming traffic, and other important traffic related signage.

**Pedestrian Traffic and Bike Path:**

Sign at west corner of Novato Blvd and Sutro indicating NO BIKE or SKATEBOARDS.

Painted NO BIKE/SKATEBOARD path markings placed intermittently leading up to the dog park.

Cross walk with flashing lights placed in the vicinity of Chase and Dogbone Meadows (at the proposed stop sign or stop light).

Crossing Guard at west corner of Novato Blvd and San Marin Drive/Sutro

**Education:**

Traffic Calming Community Awareness Campaign

Further collaboration with Safe Routes To School and Novato Police Department's Safety Programs

In closing, thank you Jason for taking the time to review our recommendations and suggestions. As you can ascertain from this letter and the many complaints regarding the safety of our citizen's, we feel these issues need to be addressed as soon as possible. At this juncture, we would like to set a date to meet with you so that we can show you the video and discuss actionable steps.

Regards,

Barb Curtice – STFN Committee Member

CJ Spielman – STFN Committee Member